



**TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

**RE: SB 453 & SB 454**

**HB 5444, HB 5445 & HB 5452**

**JUDY GOLDBERG VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**MARCH 14, 2018**

My name is Judy Goldberg, Vice President of Government Relations for the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association. The Connecticut Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and its over 38,000 members is submitting this written testimony ON the following bill:

**SB 453 AAC CLASSROOM SAFETY AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR.**

CTPTA supports the intent of this bill as it includes provisions relating to “daily classroom safety” with the goal of reducing bullying in school. We appreciate the emphasis on access to mental health supports. These professionals are already in our schools. By taking responsibility off our teachers, and focusing the need for positive behavioral support, it will help to reduce the incidents of bullying in our schools. A classroom should be a place of learning where everyone feels safe. We greatly appreciate Sect. 10 requiring schools to notify parents of violations and invite parents to meet. We strongly feel that the inclusion of parents in the dialogue supports a team approach to positive behavior supports.

**SB 454 AAC SCHOOL SECURITY**

Especially during this time of heightened attention to safe school environments, the CTPTA supports this bill. In particular, submitting reports on crisis response drills to the State Department of Education and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, we believe will help to create collaboration throughout the state on best practices to keeping our students safe while in school.

**HB 5444 AAC REVISIONS TO THE STUDENT DATA PRIVACY ACT**

As a member of the task force studying the issues related to student data privacy, the CTPTA supports the efforts of this bill to continue to keep parents informed of any contracts entered into by the district. We understand that districts enter into contracts that share or provide access to student information, student records or student-generated content with contractors. Ensuring a uniform



student data privacy terms-of-service agreement addendum for use in contracts, will help to keep data out of the hands of those it doesn't belong.

#### HB 5445 AAC ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPELLED STUDENTS

Understanding that the quality of education and not a set number of hours has more of an impact on a student's learning experience, the CTPTA **supports** this bill. With a focus on a lower teacher-student ratio and individualized instruction, learning environments for expelled students are different than traditional classrooms and we believe with the removal of a set number of hours, expelled students can get the attention needed to set them back on a path for success in the future.

#### HB 5452 AAC THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS.

The CTPTA **supports** this bill. We strongly believe providing guidelines for the management of students with life threatening food allergies in school and on school buses will greatly protect our students from any accidental harm resulting from food exposure and/or contaminations. Decimation of information to individuals who may have daily contact with students with food allergies will help to protect those susceptible from severe harm.

#### **About Connecticut PTA**

Connecticut PTA comprises over 38,000 members consisting of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools and well-being of children. PTA is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education, children's health and child welfare. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth.